consideration since then, inter alia, in consultation with the Deptt. of Environment. The Govt. of India have appointed on 5-9-1986 a High-Level Committee of Experts, headed by Dr. B. D. Nag Chaudhuri, former Vice-Chancellor of Jawahar Lal Nehru University to study in depth the impact of the proposed development of the Gandhamardan Bauxite Project in Orissa on ecology and environment. A final view will be taken by the Govt. of India after the receipt of the recommendations of the High-Level Committee of Experts.

Proposed Sponge Iron Plant in Bellary Hospet area of Karnataka

1115. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have shelved the proposed sponge iron plant in the Bellary Hospet area of Karnataka; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for shelving the said sponge iron plant?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b) The project which was at one time to be located in the Bellary Hospet area of Karnataka was for a steel plant and not a sponge iron plant. It has not been possible to take substantive steps for setting up this plant so far due to constraints on resources.

However, a proposal has been received from the Karnataka State Industrial Investment & Development Corporation (KSIIDC) Limited for setting up a sponge iron plant in collaboration with Sponge Iron India Limited (SIIL). The proposal is under consideration and the location for this plant has not been decided.

Agitation against Reservation Policy in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

1116. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent agitations against the reservation policy of the Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka Governments;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had recently written to the Centre to take initiative for a national consensus on the reservation policy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh had written on 21st September, 1986 to take initiative for convening a national conference. The Government of India is of the view that the *status quo* should be maintained until a consensus on the subject is evolved.

Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme

1117. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of landless families in each state which got gainful employment for hundred days or more in a year under the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme and the wages earned by them on an average during the year 1985-86 and 1986 till date; and

(b) the expenditure incurred on this programme during the year 1985-86 and 1986-87 till date and estimated for each of the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) and (b) Generation of employment under Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme is being monitored in terms of the generation of mandays of employment. A statement showing State and Union Territory-wise generation of employment in the years 1985-86 and 1986-87 alongwith the expenditure incurred and the average per manday is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix CXL, Annexure No. 45]

Arrears on account of Water and Electricity Charge

1118. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the total arrears as at present on account of water and electricity charges due from former Members of Parliament and former Chairmen of various government bodies etc. in respect of accommodation allotted to them in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): As reported by the NDMC, a sum of Rs. 9.13 lacs is recoverable from former MPs as arrears of electricity and water charges as on date. Arrears in respect of former Chairmen of different Government bodies is not separately available with the New Delhi Municipal Committee.

Management Trainees in Steel Authority of India Limited

1119. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any uniform policy has been adopted by the Steel Authority of India Limited for recruitment of management trainees (technical) from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and other engineering colleges; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any association of qualified engineers has submitted any memorandum in this regard; and

(d) if so, what are the demands made therein and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b) In accordance with Government policy, SAIL makes campus recruitments from institutions of all India repute such as the various Indian Institutes of Technology and the Institute of Technology of Banaras Hindu University. In the case of mining discipline, campus recruitment is made by SAIL from the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad. This scheme of campus recruitment is in addition to recruitment of Management Trainees (Technical) made by SAIL from the open market through all India advertisements under which Engineering Graduates of various Institutes in India are invited to apply against SAIL's requirement in different engineering disciplines.

Campus recruitments were started by SAIL in 1984-85 as Government had felt that special efforts should be made by public sector undertakings to attract and offer employment to students of IIMs and IITs. These students receive managerial, scientific, engineering and technical education of an internationally recognised standard of excellence and constituted the most promising managerial material. The Public Sector would benefit by attracting and employing them in the largest numbers.

(c) and (d) In August, 1986, SAIL received a Memorandum on this matter from the Association of Qualified Engineers, Bhilai Nagar. Details of their demands and the position of each demand are indicated in the enclosed statement.